Implementation of consumer Protection Act, 1986

*86. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has been implemented in different States and Union Territories;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in implementing the provisions of the Act requiring the constitution of Consumer Protection Councils, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to make consumer protection a reality by reinforcing or modifying the provisions of the Act or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As per information available, 28 States/Union Territories have set up the State level Consumer Protection Councils. The redressal machinery has been set up in 7 States/UTs. 8 States/UTs have notified the State Commissions/District Forums. In addition, Central Government has conveyed its approval to 5 States to set up this machinery.

(b) Two States and one U.T. have yet to set up Consumer Protection Council. Action in this regard lies with them. However, Government has urged them to take early action in setting up the Councils.

(c) The Government accords high priority to Consumer Protection Programme. It has taken a number of steps to promote a strong and broad-based consumer movement in the country. Such measures include enactment of Consumer Protection Act, 1986; amendment of legislations such as Essential Commodities Act, 1955; Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, MRTP Act, 1969, etc. to empower the consumers and recognised consumer organisations to file complaints in the court; increased coverage by the media, publication of literature in the field of consumer protection; institution of National Awards, etc. There is no proposal to modify the provisions of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 at this stage.

Taking over of VISL by SAIL

*87. SHRI M. S. GURUPADSWAMY:
SHRI J. P. JAVALI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka have offered the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited to be taken over by the Steel Authority of India;

(b) whether all the conditions laid down by the SAIL have been agreed to by the Government of Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking a decision to take over the VISL by the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Karnataka have agreed to take the steps identified as necessary for improving the viability of VISL.

(c) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

विडियो कैसेटों का उत्पादन करने वाली एजेंसियां

*88. श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली, बम्बई, मद्रास और कलकत्ता जैसे महानगरों में हिन्दी, अंग्रेजी और अन्य क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में फिल्मों के वीडियो कैसेट तैयार करने के कार्य में कितने अभिकरण लगे हुए हैं और उनमें से कितनों को सरकार द्वारा लाइसेंस दिए गए हैं; और

(ख) क्या सरकार द्वारा इन अभिकरणों को वीडियो कैसेटों में फिल्मों के साथ-साथ विभिन्न कम्पनियों के विज्ञापनों को रिकार्ड/प्रदर्शित करने के लिए कोई लाइसेंस दिए गए हैं ?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री एच० के० एल० भगत) : (क) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा जाता है ।

(ख) ऐसी कोई जानकारी अपेक्षित नहीं है ।

विवरण

फिल्मों के वीडियो कैसेटों का निर्माण करने वाली एजेंसियों के बारे में सरकार द्वारा न तो कोई आंकड़े रखे जाते हैं और न ही इस प्रकार की फिल्मों के भाषावार ब्यौरों का संचय और रखरखाव किया जाता है । तथापि इन कामों के लिए यूनिटों के पंजीकरण की एक स्कीम मई, 1988 में मंत्रालय द्वारा शुरू की गई थी :—

1. फिल्मों की प्रतिकृतियों का वीडियो अंतरण करना ;

2. पूर्व रिकार्ड किए गए वीडियो कैसेटों का अनुलिपिकरण/निर्माण करना तथा

3. वीडियो से फिल्मों में प्रतिकृतियों का अंतरण करना । इन गतिविधियों के लिए अब तक 38 यूनिट पंजीकृत किए गए हैं।

Reduction in consumer Price index for Industrial Workers

*89. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sudden reduction in the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers after the introduction of the 1982 series; and

(b) whether the organisations of workers and trade Unions have made complaints regarding the reduction in Dearness allowance in spite of the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) and (b) The Consumer Price Index only reflects the movement in the prices of items which figure in the relevant consumption basket.

The new series of Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (base 1982-100) was introduced effective from the month of October, 1988. The Index numbers for the 5 months, October, 1988—February, 1989 are as follows:

October, 1988	—	167
November, 1988	—	168
December, 1988	—	166
January, 1989	—	165
February, 1989	—	165

Representations have been received from some workers' organisations pointing out the decline in the Index Number for the month of December, 1988 as compared to November, 1988. A monthly period is not a satisfactory basis for tracking changes in the Consumer Price Index. As will be seen, between October, 1988 and February, 1989 there has been a change of only 2 points in the new Index, which is accounted for mainly by seasonal factors, such as the decline in the prices of many food items.

The rates of dearness allowance vary from industrial unit to unit, depending on the agreements in force between managements and trade unions. As has been pointed out above, there has not been a rise in prices for many items figuring in the Consumer Price Index between December, 1988 and February, 1989.

Setting up of Consumer Courts

*90. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have urged States and Union Territories to quickly set up consumer courts;